

Appl. No. : 09/776,383
Filed : 02/02/2001

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, and 12-16 are pending in this application. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended. Claims 17-27 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to Claim 4. Pending Claims 7 and 12-16 depend from Claim 4.

Claim Objections

Claim 14 has been objected to as not providing a definition for M₁. Claim 14 has been amended to provide a definition for M₁. A similar amendment has been made to Claim 15, although this claim has not been objected to. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 17 and 20-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pluedemann (U.S. Patent Re. 34,675). Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, in the interest of pursuing allowable subject matter Claims 17 and 20-22 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuation application. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 17 and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. 5,316,855). Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, in the interest of pursuing allowable subject matter Claims 17 and 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuation application. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 17 and 19-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Uryu (JP 7-333208 A2). Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, in the interest of pursuing allowable subject matter Claims 17 and 19-22 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuation application. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

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Claims 17-22 and 24-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kurosawa et al. (U.S. 6,410,151). Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, in the interest of pursuing allowable subject matter Claims 17-22 and 24-27 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuation application. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 19 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Pluedemann (U.S. Patent Re. 34,675). Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, in the interest of pursuing allowable subject matter Claims 19 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a continuation application. The rejection is therefore moot.

CONCLUSION

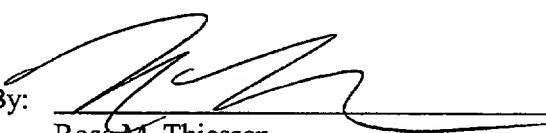
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 8/9/03

By:



Rose M. Thiessen
Registration No. 40,202
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

AMEND
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